

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02547 111423Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

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UNCLAS CAIRO 2547

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EWWT, EG
SUBJ: SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY (SCA) NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM PROJECT

REF: 76 PORT SAID A-9

1. CAIRO DAILY AL AHRAH REPORTS FEBRUARY 8 REMARKS BY
SCA CHAIRMAN MASHHOUR AHMED MASHHOUR ON PROGRESS OF
UPDATING SCA'S OUTMODED NAVIGATIONAL APPARATUS WITH
MORE SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC SYSTEM. AS DESCRIBED BY
MASHOUR, SYSTEM UNDER STUDY BY FRENCH AND BRITISH CONSULTING
FIRMS ENVISAGES A SERIES OF MONITORING STATIONS PLACED AT
2500 YARD INTERVALS UP AND DOWN CANAL, REPORTING ELECTRON-
ICALLY TO MASTER STATION AT ISMAILIA. "SLAVE" STATIONS
WOULD OPERATE AT SUEZ AND PORT SAID.

2. COMMENT: AMCONSUL PORT SAID REPORTS THIS SYSTEM,
CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MID-YEAR
AND WHICH REQUIRES 18 MONTHS FOR COMPLETION, CLOSELY
RESEMBLES LORAN-C SYSTEM DESCRIBED BY LITTON REPRESENTATIVE
IN REFERENCED AIRGRAM. AMCONSUL COMMENTS THAT WITH ON-GOING
WIDENING AND DEEPENING PROJECT, LORAN-C TYPE SYSTEM
WOULD ALLOW SCA TO DROP CUMBERSOME CONVOY SYSTEM THAT UP
TO NOW HAS HAMPERED OPERATION OF CANAL. IT SHOULD ALSO
HAVE AN IMPACT ON INSURANCE RATES FOR VESSELS TRANSITING
CANAL AND THEREBY REDUCE SHIPPING COSTS FRACTIONALLY.
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02547 111423Z POSS DUPE

3. WE UNDERSTAND A U.S. COMPANY, MEGAPULSE, INC., BEDFORD,
MASS PRESENTED A PROPOSAL FOR A "TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FOR THE SUEZ CANAL" TO SCA ON DECEMBER 1, 1976. COMPANY
IS PROPOSING A SYSTEM BASED ON THE LORAN-C AND
PRESIDENT OF MEGAPULSE, PAUL R. JOHANNESSEN, HAS CORRESPONDED
WITH AMBASSADOR AND USAID DIRECTOR IN THIS REGARD. FIRM'S

MIDDLE EAST REPRESENTATIVE MET WITH USAID AND DISCUSSED
POSSIBILITIES OF AID FINANCING. USAID IS PRESENTLY FINANCING
DREDGERS AND CRANES FOR SCA UNDER THE COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAM,
TO BE UTILIZED IN WIDENING AND DEEPENING PROJECT. SIMILAR
CIP FINANCING COULD BE PROVIDED FOR NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT IF
GOE DETERMINES THIS IS PRIORITY ITEM FOR CIP FINANCING AND
PROVIDES CANAL AUTHORITY WITH ALLOCATION OF FUNDS. USAID
HAS REQUESTED A MEETING WITH THE SCA CHAIRMAN MASHOUR UPON
HIS RETURN FROM A TRIP ABROAD AND WILL INCLUDE SUBJECT OF
PROPOSED NAVIGATION SYSTEM IN OUR DISCUSSIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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